



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 351

February Session, 2010

Substitute Senate Bill No. 380

Senate, April 7, 2010

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
CREDENTIALING FOR SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS FOR 2015.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-16p of the 2010 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

4 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16s, inclusive, 10-16u, 17b-749a
5 and 17b-749c:

6 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
7 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
8 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, and (B)
9 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
10 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible
11 children, except as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

12 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age

13 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
14 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
15 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

16 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
17 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
18 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
19 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
20 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
21 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
22 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a
23 grant pursuant to section 10-16u;

24 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
25 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
26 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to
27 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

28 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for
29 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review
30 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,
31 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the
32 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
33 Services, unless the context otherwise requires;

34 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in
35 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

36 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; and

37 (8) "Department" means the Department of Education.

38 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for
39 school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u,
40 school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the
41 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of
42 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers
43 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,

44 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that
45 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.
46 The department shall establish standards for school readiness
47 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
48 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
49 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff
50 qualifications and training, transition to school and administration.
51 The department shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills
52 and goals for children attending such programs. The commissioner, in
53 consultation with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social
54 Services and other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing
55 education training program for the staff of school readiness programs.

56 (2) (A) For purposes of this section, prior to July 1, 2015, "staff
57 qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual who has
58 at least the following: [(1)] (i) A childhood development associate
59 credential or an equivalent credential issued by an organization
60 approved by the Commissioner of Education, and [nine credits or
61 more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early
62 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
63 Commissioner of Higher Education, after consultation with the
64 Commissioners of Education and Social Services, from an institution of
65 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
66 Education or regionally accredited; [(2)] (ii) an associate's degree with
67 [nine credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or
68 more, in early childhood education or child development, as
69 determined by the Commissioner of Higher Education, after
70 consultation with the Commissioners of Education and Social Services,
71 from such an institution; [(3)] (iii) a four-year degree with [nine credits
72 or more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early
73 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
74 Commissioner of Higher Education, after consultation with the
75 Commissioners of Education and Social Services, from such an
76 institution; or [(4)] (iv) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
77 endorsement in early childhood education, [or special education, and
78 on]

79 (B) On and after July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications" means [there is in
80 each classroom an individual who has at least the following: (A) A
81 bachelor's degree in early childhood education or childhood
82 development, or in a related field approved by the Commissioner of
83 Education from an institution of higher education accredited by the
84 Board of Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or
85 (B) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in
86 early childhood education or special education] for each program
87 accepting school readiness funds that (i) at least fifty per cent of its
88 teachers (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
89 endorsement in early childhood education, or (II) hold a bachelor's
90 degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board
91 of Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (ii) the
92 remaining teachers hold an associate degree from an institution of
93 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
94 Education or regionally accredited, and (iii) all such teachers described
95 in clause (i)(II) and clause (ii) of this subparagraph have completed a
96 program of study other than a program of teacher preparation leading
97 to professional certification approved by the Commissioners of
98 Education and Higher Education.

99 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
100 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
101 provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible
102 children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-
103 266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
104 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
105 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
106 district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be
107 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
108 as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except
109 that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection
110 is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such
111 five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to
112 be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards
113 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a

114 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
115 and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or
116 former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure
117 of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process
118 to the Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments
119 shall jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
120 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
121 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
122 council established pursuant to section 10-16r; (2) be based on a needs
123 and resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for
124 proposals for providers of accredited school readiness programs,
125 provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have
126 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the
127 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have
128 received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social
129 Services pursuant to section 17b-749i, are exempt from the requirement
130 for issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need
131 for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours
132 and days of operation of school readiness programs in order to
133 provide child day care services for children attending such programs.

134 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
135 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
136 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
137 eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school
138 or a former priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
139 subsection, (B) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked
140 in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
141 (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school
142 district pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a town formerly a town
143 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in
144 said subdivision (2). A town in which a priority school is located, a
145 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
146 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town
147 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a
148 grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred seven thousand dollars

149 per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-
150 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority
151 school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
152 subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
153 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
154 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
155 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school
156 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
157 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department
158 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the
159 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
160 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
161 appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred seven
162 thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such
163 district. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant
164 pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for
165 such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs.

166 (2) (A) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a
167 town received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
168 and is no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive
169 a phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
170 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
171 this subsection.

172 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
173 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
174 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
175 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
176 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
177 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
178 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
179 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
180 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
181 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
182 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following

183 the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
184 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
185 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
186 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
187 this subsection.

188 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
189 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
190 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
191 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
192 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
193 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
194 section 10-16q, except that such per child cost shall be reduced for slots
195 that are less than year-round, and (B) multiplying the number of
196 additional or decreased slots the districts have requested for the fiscal
197 year in which the grant is to be paid by the per child cost pursuant to
198 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said section 10-16q, except such per
199 child cost shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If
200 said sum exceeds the available appropriation, such number of
201 requested additional slots shall be reduced, as determined by the
202 Commissioner of Education, to stay within the available appropriation.

203 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
204 this section are not expended, the Commissioner of Education shall use
205 such unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs in
206 satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraph (B) of
207 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The local school
208 readiness programs shall use any such funds to provide assistance to
209 staff for the cost of higher education courses leading to an associate's
210 degree or a bachelor's degree.

211 [(2)] (B) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
212 this section are not expended pursuant to said subsection (c) or
213 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the Commissioner of Education
214 may use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness
215 programs. The commissioner may use such funds for purposes

216 including, but not limited to, [(A)] (i) assisting local school readiness
217 programs in meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements, [(B)]
218 (ii) providing training in implementing the preschool assessment and
219 curriculum frameworks, including training to enhance literacy
220 teaching skills, [(C)] (iii) developing a state-wide preschool curriculum,
221 [(D)] (iv) developing student assessments for students in grades
222 kindergarten to two, inclusive, [(E)] (v) developing and implementing
223 best practices for parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten
224 student learning, [(F)] (vi) developing and implementing strategies for
225 children to transition from preschool to kindergarten, [(G)] (vii)
226 providing for professional development, including assisting in career
227 ladder advancement, for school readiness staff, and [(H)] (viii)
228 providing supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for
229 grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

230 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal
231 years ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, 2011, inclusive, the Department
232 of Education may retain up to one hundred ninety-eight thousand two
233 hundred dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this
234 section for coordination, program evaluation and administration.

235 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
236 this section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race,
237 color, national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of
238 this section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private
239 school readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment
240 Clause of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the
241 Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States of
242 America.

243 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
244 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
245 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
246 such town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
247 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for
248 coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount

249 shall be at least twenty-five thousand dollars but not more than
250 seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be determined by the
251 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of
252 Social Services, based on the school readiness grant award allocated to
253 the town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
254 16u and the number of operating sites for coordination, program
255 evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be increased by an
256 amount equal to local funding provided for early childhood education
257 coordination, program evaluation and administration, not to exceed
258 twenty-five thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant
259 to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall designate a person
260 to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and
261 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
262 Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school readiness
263 program that receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u
264 shall provide information to the department or the school readiness
265 council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of any school
266 readiness program evaluation.

267 (h) For the first three years a town receives grants pursuant to this
268 section, such grants may be used, with the approval of the
269 commissioner, to prepare a facility or staff for operating a school
270 readiness program and shall be adjusted based on the number of days
271 of operation of a school readiness program if a shorter term of
272 operation is approved by the commissioner.

273 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
274 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
275 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
276 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who
277 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
278 readiness program located outside such region.

279 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
280 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for
281 purposes of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the

282 determination of average daily membership pursuant to subdivision
283 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-261.

284 (k) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
285 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
286 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
287 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

288 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) The Department of Higher Education,
289 in consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and
290 representatives from public and private institutions of higher
291 education in the state, shall develop a plan for meeting the
292 requirements in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b)
293 of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not
294 later than February 1, 2011, and annually thereafter through February
295 1, 2015, the department shall submit such plan, in accordance with the
296 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
297 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
298 relating to higher education and employment advancement and
299 education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-16p
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill shifts resources from other school readiness priorities, and requires the commissioner of education to use funds to help school readiness staff with the cost of higher education courses leading to associates' or bachelors' degrees. It is unclear the impact that the shift in resources will have on the existing school readiness priorities. For FY 10 the anticipated amount of excess school readiness funds is approximately \$1.7 million, and for FY 11 the amount is anticipated to be less than \$1.0 million.

Section 1 of the bill also changes school readiness staff qualifications, which are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

Section 2 of the bill requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE), in consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), and representatives from public and private colleges and universities, to develop a plan for meeting the bill's staff qualifications, and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 380*****AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CREDENTIALING FOR SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS FOR 2015.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill changes school readiness staff qualifications. This includes reducing the qualifications required, starting July 1, 2015, and giving the education commissioner more authority in determining if credits meet subject area requirements.

It also changes how excess school readiness funds are used by requiring the commissioner to use such funds to help school readiness staff with the cost of higher education courses leading to associates' or bachelors' degrees. School readiness programs provide developmentally appropriate learning of not less than 450 hours over 180 days for (1) children ages three and four and (2) some five-year-olds depending upon where their birthday falls during the school calendar.

The bill requires that the Department of Higher Education, in consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and representatives from public and private colleges and universities, develop a plan for meeting the bill's staff qualifications. The report is due to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement and Education committees by February 1, 2011 and annually each following year ending with February 1, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

SCHOOL READINESS STAFF QUALIFICATIONS***Pre-2015 Requirements***

By law, until July 1, 2015, each school readiness classroom must have someone with (1) at least 12 early childhood education or child development credits from an accredited higher education institution and (a) a credential issued by a commissioner-approved organization, (b) an associate's degree, or (c) a four-year degree or (2) a teaching certificate with an early childhood or special education endorsement.

The bill specifies that the commissioner-approved organization must issue a childhood development associate credential or its equivalent. Additionally, it specifies that the education commissioner, after consulting with the higher education and social services commissioners, must determine if the credits meet the subject area requirements. Finally, it eliminates the option of a teaching certificate with special education endorsement to meet the requirements.

New Requirements Starting July 1, 2015

Starting on July 1, 2015, current law requires each classroom to have a person with (1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in early childhood education, child development, or a related commissioner-approved field or (2) a teaching certificate with a special education or early childhood endorsement.

The bill eliminates these requirements. Instead, for programs accepting school readiness funds, the bill requires half of their teachers to have (1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited higher education institution or (2) a teaching certificate with an early childhood endorsement. The remaining teachers must have an associate's degree from an accredited higher education institution. The teachers meeting the requirement based on their bachelors' or associates' degrees must have completed a program of study other than teacher preparation leading to a professional certification approved by the education and higher education commissioners.

EXCESS SCHOOL READINESS FUNDS

The bill requires that any school readiness funds not expended to provide spaces for children in qualified readiness programs be used to

help school readiness staff with the cost of higher education courses. It requires the commissioner to use the funds to support local readiness programs in satisfying staff qualification requirements that take effect July 1, 2015. The local readiness programs must use the funds to provide assistance to staff for the cost of college courses for an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Under current law, readiness funds to provide spaces for children that are not expended can be used by the commissioner for a variety of purposes to support readiness programs, including (1) meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements, (2) assessment and curriculum training, (3) developing state-wide curriculum, (4) providing professional development for school readiness staff, and (5) providing supplemental grants for other towns eligible for to run readiness programs. The bill states that any funds left over after helping readiness staff with the cost of college courses can still be used for these purposes.

BACKGROUND

School Readiness Providers

By law, school readiness providers eligible for state funding include local and regional board of education, regional education service centers, family resource centers and providers of child day care centers, Head Start programs, preschool programs, and other programs that meet the commissioner's standards.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/19/2010)